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what is in the heart, of communion with one another. That communion is deep and tender, and the knowledge of it passeth understanding; "all that we know is that love kindles from it. It has all possibilities. As yet Christianity is running germs; it is in being's flood, in action's storm. Christianity is a great live religion. It is the word."

#### **The Essential Place of Religion in Education.**

By Charles E. Rugh, Laura H. Wild, Frances V. Frisbie, Clarence Reed, Amos B. West. Ann Arbor, Mich.: National Education Association, 1916. Pp. 134.

This monograph consists of a prize essay by the author first mentioned together with the four essays that received honorable mention. Our readers will readily grant what the title implies and will find their interest centering in the various methods proposed for making the teaching of religion a function of the public school.

Professor Rugh has little confidence in an instruction program as such. He says, "Nothing short of a life inspired and guided by the best and greatest motives, that is, by religious motives, can introduce religious teaching into the education of children," and "the religious life of the child can be nourished only by the inner religious vitality of the social life in which the child lives." He regards the impulses into which religious aims may be grafted as fear, respect, affection, play, and work, and holds that the "example of a religious person is the primary means of religious teaching." Practically all of the regimen and curriculum of school life is therefore potentially religious, these impulses functioning with some variation through the successive ages or grades.

In an endeavor to give a more distinctive content to religious education the other essayists attempt a more formal curriculum and naturally give more prominence to biblical instruction. Some eight different plans in use in various places are set forth, and on the whole the reasonableness of a reappreciation of religion as part and parcel of public education is so suggestively presented and with such variety of method as to promise a significant advance in the near future.

#### **The Union of Christian Forces in America.**

By Robert A. Ashworth. Philadelphia: American Sunday School Union, 1915. Pp. 216. \$0.75.

The problem of church union is persistent, complex, and unsolved. It is eminently fitting, however, that the American Sunday School Union with its long, honorable, and impartial service in behalf of Protestant Christianity in the sparsely settled districts of America should

make its contribution to the solution of a question whose urgency it knows at first hand. The Union's method of providing the public with the best utterance on the subject has been that of open competition, in which Dr. Ashworth's treatise won first place.

The author's procedure in this prize book is first to demonstrate the need of a closer union of Christian forces and to exhibit the present cost of disunion against the reconstructed ideal of New Testament unity. This is followed by a canvass of the modern trend away from sectarianism and a description of successful interdenominational effort. Finally a possible basis for organic unity is discussed.

Upon a careful reading of the book one is impressed with its sobriety and restraint, which seem due not to lack of energetic conviction but to the presence of that Christlike spirit by virtue of which alone we may hope for a further integration of Protestantism. The author is not unmindful of the time element involved or of the futility of dogmatic or coercive conformity. His hope seems to lie in a genetic development through allied effort in the common Christian task. By working together wherever possible in accomplishing the will of Christ for the world we shall, in the degree of our loyalty to him and of our comradeship in service, grow into a union of great spiritual and practical worth.

The book constitutes a real contribution to the literature of this subject and will be distinctly valuable to the host of earnest souls who are feeling their way toward a brotherhood of believers commensurate with the gospel ideal and equal to the demands of the twentieth century.

#### **What Jesus Christ Thought of Himself.**

By Auson Phelps Stokes. New York: Macmillan, 1916. Pp. xi+114. \$1.00.

An earnest endeavor to present an uncritical sketch of Jesus' thoughts about himself and his mission. In his treatment of Jesus' humanity, the author undoubtedly comes pretty close to the facts, and rightly does he feel that, so understood, Jesus comes much closer to our human need. A more careful discrimination of sources would just as certainly add to the value of the picture given, in the second part of the book, concerning the higher significance of Jesus' life. The book should provoke much earnest thought, especially in adult Bible classes.

#### **Christianity's Greatest Peril.**

By Augustus Conrad Ekbohn. Atlantic City: Beacon Publishing Co., 1915. Pp. 311. \$1.00.

A sensational exposé of the evils and dangers involved in the spread of Roman Catholicism.

The author sees the United States in gravest peril. He believes our public-school system, our government, and our very religious freedom are threatened by the steady inroads of the Catholic hosts. Already he sees astute Catholic politicians tightening their grip upon the political parties, laying plans for a Catholic President, and boldly planning, under the Pope's guidance, to make America Catholic.

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**Social Messages: The New Sanctification.**

By Charles W. Barnes. New York: Methodist Book Concern, 1915. Pp. 100. \$0.50.

A plea for the combination of personal and social religion. Only as the modern church proclaims personal salvation through Christlike character and social salvation through the quickening and the continuous education of the public conscience can it hope to fill modern life, modern institutions, with the spirit of the Master. Illustrations are drawn from the life-work of Kingsley, Maurice, and Robertson on the one hand, and from various socialistic movements on the other. In the presentation of this old-new gospel the modern minister can find room for all his powers.

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**"My Christ."** By Carl D. Case. Philadelphia: Griffith & Rowland Press, 1915. Pp. 169.

This is a simple story of Jesus' career and teaching. It is based upon a harmonistic arrangement of the four Gospels, aiming to give a sympathetic interpretation of Jesus' life as a whole. Dr. Case's purpose is excellent; his rendering of the various scenes and conversations is helpful. But the author has not attempted any critical valuation of the sources.

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**Mysticism and Modern Life.** By John Wright Buckham. New York: Abingdon Press, 1915. Pp. 256. \$1.00.

Discussions of mysticism are the order of the day. Professor Buckham has given us a book that meets a need. He considers his subject primarily in reference to the life of the present generation. The book falls into three parts: "New Forms," "Tests," and "Values of Mysticism." Professor Buckham believes that mysticism is not an exclusive religious gift reserved only for a favored few, but in some form is available for every one who will cultivate the capacity for it. He holds that anyone "who has, or believes he has, a direct experience of God is to that extent a mystic." An important chapter is devoted to "Health Mysticism." He holds that the church has made a critical mistake in trying to propagate itself

rather than having manifested such a fundamental interest in all humanity as to make its ministry necessary to practical life. The new health mysticism needed today, therefore, is "a new influx of love." When this mysticism of the heart becomes sound and controlling, there will be a new temper of hope and health among Christians. The practical chapters on "Lessons from the Mystics" and "Mysticism and Modern Society" are sane and wholesome. This book is heartily to be commended to all who seek to know the way in which God is to be appropriated and his power made effective in human life.

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**The Universe as Pictured in Milton's "Paradise Lost."** By William Fairfield Warren. New York: Abingdon Press, 1915. Pp. 80. \$0.75.

Readers of Dante and Milton know how important is the background of cosmology to the comprehension of these writings. Professor Warren has done a genuine service to all careful readers in putting clearly and concisely the ten main points of Milton's cosmology, adding a discussion of certain obscure points, and furnishing ten charts explanatory of the universe of *Paradise Lost*. A short chapter appeals for the use of the imagination in attempting to think one's self into this ancient world, and shows what rewards are in store for one who will earnestly seek to understand the ancient thought of the material universe. The pages are rather thickly set with technical terms like "quadrifurcate" and "quadriune." The little book is essential to an adequate study of Milton.

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**The Survival of the Unfit.** By Philip Wendell Crannell, D.D. New York: Doran, 1915. Pp. 203. \$1.00.

President Crannell, of the Kansas City Baptist Theological Seminary, has evidently been for some time a contributor of editorials to the *Sunday School Times*. He has now gathered thirty-two of these into a volume somewhat loosely bound together by the common purpose of interpreting the development of character through Christian faith, this activity being carried on in relationships with God, with one's self, and with one's fellows. It requires a peculiar genius to be able to present a truth in editorial form and have it thoroughly genuine and direct. President Crannell overcomes this difficulty in a remarkable degree. The title, so necessary in an editorial if it is going to lead the reader from his first observation to a careful examination of the subjects, is almost always seized upon by the author with great skill. The editorial giving the title to the book is an example in point, although there is nothing